



EMBASSY OF JAPAN
P.O.BOX 1649
KHARTOUM, SUDAN
<http://www.sdn.emb-japan.go.jp>

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من الشعب الياباني

From the People of Japan

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**Japanese Ambassador Invited 46 Sudanese Alumni members of Japan
for a New Year's Reception at his Residence**

H.E. Mr. Ryoichi Horie, the Ambassador of Japan to Sudan, invited 46 Sudanese Alumni members for a Reception on the 28th of January at his residence to celebrate the New Year. In Japan, a New Year Reception, so called "Gashi Koukannkai" (literally meaning in English is "the Gathering for Exchanging New Year Greeting Cards") culturally held in Japan in the beginning of the year for a new year greetings with friends, hosted by the company or the community.

The reception was attended by H.E. Dr. Mohammed Youssef, Minister of State for Finance and National Economy of the Government of Sudan as one of the ex-scholarship students of Japanese Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEXT), Mr. Khalid Fadlesead Abdallah, President of Sudan-Japan Friendship Association (SJFA), Mr. Adil Ali Mohammed Ahmed, Secretary General of the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) Sudan Alumni Society (ASAS), Dr. Ibtisam Satti Ibrahim, Deputy Dean of University of Khartoum who is the ex-JICA Training Program participant, together with 93 Japanese nationals in Sudan.

During the reception, Ambassador HORIE said that Japan will continue assisting Sudan as a friend and an equal partner and is willing to cooperate with the Sudanese people for the sake of this country's peace, stability and development. He stressed the important role of the Sudanese Alumni members of Japan and Japanese nationals in Sudan for working together to realize win-win relationship between two countries.

Ambassador HORIE also emphasized the importance of cultural and sports exchange since Japan has honored to host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, highlighting that he is looking forward to seeing the Sudanese athletes competing in the Tokyo Olympics and winning gold medals. He promised to host a New Year's Reception every year for greeting each other among the Sudanese Alumni members of Japan and the Japanese nationals.

As the representative of the Sudanese Alumni members of Japan, H.E. Dr. Mohammed Youssef, Minister of State for Finance and National Economy, has congratulated the Ambassador at the reception for the New Year. He praised the distinguished bilateral relations between Sudan and Japan and touched upon Japan-Sudan long-lasting friendship which would be more fostered through variety of activities in the field of economic cooperation, culture and sports exchange.

During the reception, the attendees watched the 2013 Japanese Embassy's activities digest-video including the significance of Ambassador's visits to 12 states in Sudan and enjoyed a wide variety of Japanese foods. All the guests were warmly welcomed by a Japanese way of "OMOTENASHI" (hospitality) at the Ambassador residence.

Japan and Sudan have been enjoying friendly and cooperative relations since the establishment of the diplomatic relations in 1956. Japan recognizes Sudan as one of the most important countries for achieving peace and stability in Africa and the whole world. Japan has been committed to accelerating consolidation of the peace and assisting the social and economic development in Sudan which amounts to over 1.1 billion US dollars since 2005.

Photos at Japanese New Year's Reception at Ambassador Residence
(January 28, 2014)



Ambassador with Minister of State for Finance
and National Economy



Ambassador's speech at the reception



Japanese traditional food served



Photo with guests



Ambassador with Secretary General of ASAS



New Year's Reception